



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 13 June 2021

Second Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends

A warm welcome to St Nic's today, and to Jen Brown who is presiding and preaching at this morning's service of Holy Communion at 11.15

It was a privilege to attend the Annual General Meeting of The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) this week and to hear of their excellent work among the most needy young people within our town. The mental health and associated difficulties of young people (and their parents and families) have increased during the pandemic. A greater number of referrals have been received and TAB has continued to accept those referrals and significantly support young people with counselling, lifestyle programmes and other help.

TAB's story began in a small way over 25 years ago: it is a parable in itself just like one of the parables in today's gospel when Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. Not something beautiful; not a tall and grand tree; but something very small which eventually turns into a shrub under which birds take their shade. The work of organisations and charities in the world is a sign of God's kingdom. In the church we too are called to be signs of God's kingdom of love, justice, and peace. We can take comfort from the lips of Jesus who is saying something quite profound about the nature of the church: that often things begin in a small way. Jesus likens the church to something that emerges quite quickly from almost nothing, and develops into something greater which needs care, nurture, and pruning. Jesus also said: 'I am the vine, you are the branches' (John 15 v5) and reminds us that sometimes things have to be 'cut down' in order for new growth to emerge.

Let us pray, that as we move forward in hope, emerging from such an extraordinary time of pandemic, that from the smallest things, with patient hope we may see something new and better sprouting forth in the church and the world.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Ezekiel 17.22-24

Psalm 92.1-4,12-15*

2 Corinthians 5.6-10 [11-13]14-17

Mark 4.26-34

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Next Week at St Nicolas'

Sunday 20 June

8:00am at St Helen's this month

11:15am Third Sunday – the Revd Paul Smith

Please remember, if you would like to attend a Service you need to register and book

8am Peter Penfold / Jan Lawrence (papenfold@aol.co.uk / jil129@outlook.com)

11:15am Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / paulrl.stnics@gmail.com)

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to those who have offered to help Steward the Church for **Private Prayer** and to visitors. The more volunteers we have the more we can be open. Do please consider if you can help with this, and contact Eluned if you are interested. **Thank you!**

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The June edition of 'A Candle in the Window' (2021 issue 5) is now available from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202105.pdf>. Read about TS Eliot, about Macbeth, about Chance and Randomness, Street Pastors and Flower arranging etc! **Explore it!**

St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for **private prayer** on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the South aisle of St Helen's at 10.30 am. No need to book.

Anne West RIP: Anne West, died at Southerndown Care Home, Chipping Norton, on 22 May. Anne attended St Nicolas Church for many years, first with her husband Duncan, who died in 2004 then alone until 2013 when she could no longer cope on her own and left her large house in Norman Avenue to move to Southerndown.

Anne was from an Austrian-speaking part of Yugoslavia. Living in poverty with her grandfather in Vienna during World War 2, as a teenager she was carried out of the rubble and thrown on a pile of corpses after a British bombing raid, and only rescued when somebody noticed her hand twitch. She met Duncan who was serving with the British occupying forces in Vienna after the War, when she volunteered as an interpreter. In Abingdon she always said she felt she was regarded as "one of the enemy". She never lost her Austrian accent. She leaves her son, Dr Peter West, her daughter Mrs Marika Hughes and four grandchildren. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

I have received news that the funeral of **Liz Dixon** will take place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium, Garford, on **Tuesday 22 June at 2pm**. For more information please contact Edward Carter Funeral Directors on 01235 528293. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

THANK YOU. A short message to say how much I enjoyed working in the Parish office for the past 5 years. It was so nice that many of you were able to drop in on my last day to say goodbye. I was overwhelmed by the generous gift I was given and will miss the many friends I have made there over the last few years. I am getting married in Hagbourne Church on 25 July before moving to Warminster in September and looking forward to a new beginning. Thank you for making me so welcome in the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames. *Jenny Balshaw*

ST SIGFRID'S PILGRIMAGE: The pilgrims arrive in Abingdon this Wednesday after walking from Oxford. All are welcome to join them for Morning Prayer in St Helen's on Thursday 17th at 9.10am. They will depart for Dorchester Abbey at 10, and welcome walkers to join them. (It's possible to bus home from Dorchester, or collection may be arranged!) More details at <https://www.stsigfridstrust.org/> or contact Gwen, 07789 605 418.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops, especially at this time in the life of our diocese;
- Jenny and Sam who were married here yesterday;
- The mission and ministry of our congregation and parish especially as we look towards the coming months;
- The work of TAB and needs of all vulnerable young people in our town;
- Our Prime Minister and Government, for wisdom to make the right decisions in the final stage of the road map out of the current lockdown;
- The many issues of global urgency and for the outcomes of the G7 summit;
- For a wider distribution of the Covid-19 vaccination programme throughout the world;
- Our link dioceses facing the pandemic (the Dioceses of Nandyal (India), Kimberley and Kuruman (S Africa) & Kinshasa (one of our MU links in the DRC) – [read more](#) ;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;
- The care homes in our parish, for all residents, families and staff at Bridge House and Old Station House, with whom we have special links;
- Our church school of St Nicolas, for Andy Spooner, Headteacher and all his staff, and Eluned Hallas, Chair of Governors

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Although the live-streaming of a Sunday diocesan service has now ended, Church at Home is continuing to offer invitations to attend live-streamed services from churches around the diocese. The pattern seems to be to offer invitations from two churches each week, likely to be from different traditions within the Church of England. For details see <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) - Sunday Sung Eucharist and Evensong, and weekday Services (includes service booklets and sermons). Recorded archive available.

The [Parish resources](#) page contains links to Sunday's Service at St Helen's, plus an archive of Parish resources.

The [St Nicolas' website](#) has recordings of our 11:15 am Service sermons.

RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE

Diocesan Eucharist Recordings of most of the Sunday services should be available from around 11 am each Sunday. Simply call 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full service or 1 for a shortened form. Standard call rates apply.

Daily Hope A Church of England resource offering hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full services via a freephone number 0800 804 8044.

CONTACT US

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|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Team Rector | The Revd. Dr. C Miller | 01235 520144 |
| Team Vicar | The Revd. Paul Smith | 01235 534654 |
| Associate Priest | The Revd. Charles Masheder | 01235 520959 |
| Church Warden | Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell | 07876 277363 |
| Church Warden Elect | Mrs Eluned Hallas | 01235 529462 |
| Parish Office | | 01235 520144 |

Website <https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon>

When the office is closed (Fridays until further notice) please contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any **urgent pastoral issues**.

The Parish office is now open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm until further notice (or other times by arrangement). To contact the office leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Please send any information for next week's pew slip to eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday